

previous Office Action. The Examiner agreed to consider a formal amendment presenting the newly-amended claims but did not commit at the time of the interview to any position regarding their allowability.

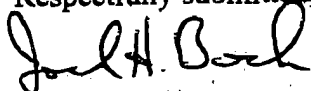
It is pointed out that Smith '021 does not have a conductive extension engaging the clip and having a portion on the outside of the housing that is electrically conductive. Smith '021 has a bolt 24 that engages the clip 34 but the only part of the bolt 24 on the outside of the housing is the head 70. The bolt head 70 "is coated with an insulated material." Col. 4, line 6. Thus the bolt cannot be used to electrically connect the joined wire to a terminus.

Claim 1 has been amended to point out that a portion of the extension on the exterior of the housing must be electrically conductive. Method claims 7 and 8 are amended to point out that electrical connections are made to the extension. Smith provides no such structure and cannot be used to perform the method of claims 7 and 8 due to the insulated coating on the bolt head 70.

It is quite clear that Smith '021 does not contemplate attachment of two or more wires to a common terminus of an external device. Smith is nothing more than an insulation displacement connector intended to join two or more wires to each other. But Smith does not teach or suggest connecting those joined wires to an external device.

It is submitted that the above amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the application is resubmitted for reconsideration. A favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Joel H. Bock

Registration No. 29,045

COOK, ALEX, McFARRON, MANZO,
CUMMINGS & MEHLER, LTD.,
200 West Adams Street
Suite 2850
Chicago, IL 60606
Phone: (312) 236-8500
Fax: (312) 726-9756

Ideal 413
June 20, 2002

MARKED UP COPY OF CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

Amend claim 1 to read as follows:

1. (Three times amended) A wire connector for electrically joining two or more incoming wires having conductors, comprising:

a housing having walls defining a cavity therein with openings in the walls, said openings permitting the incoming wires to extend into the cavity;

an electrically conductive clip disposed in the cavity and held fixed in the housing by the walls, the clip having at least first and second retaining fingers each of which engages an individual conductor to hold the conductor fixed in the housing such that the conductive clip electrically joins each conductor of the two or more incoming wires; and

a conductive extension in shorting electrical engagement with the clip and extending through a housing wall to an exterior of the housing, at least a portion of the extension on the exterior of the housing being electrically conductive.

Amend claim 7 to read as follows:

7. (Three times amended) A method of electrically connecting two or more wires having conductors to a common terminus, comprising the steps of providing a push-in wire connector having a conductive clip inside an insulative housing, providing a conductive extension electrically shorted to the clip and extending to an exterior of the housing, pushing stripped ends of the conductors of the first and second wires into the housing and into engagement with the clip, and [attaching] electrically connecting the extension to said terminus.

Amend claim 8 to read as follows:

8. (Three times amended) A method of electrically connecting two or more wires having conductors to a common terminus, comprising the steps of providing an insulation

displacement connector having a conductive clip inside an insulative housing, providing a conductive extension electrically shorted to the clip and extending to an exterior of the housing, placing first and second wires adjacent the clip, closing the housing to force the wires' conductors into engagement with the clip, and [attaching] electrically connecting the extension to said terminus.